


Fall 2002

MLGPA News (Fall 2002)

Maggie Allen

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FALL 2002

Mark your
calendars for
the Great
Pumpkin Ball.

October 26
8:00 pm
Eastland Hotel

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MLGPA News

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities since 1984

PO Box 1951, Portland, ME 04104 • 207-761-3732 • mlgpa@rcn.com • www.mlgpa.com

MLGPA Endorses 2002 Campaigns

In an open endorsement meeting in August, MLGPA members discussed candidates' qualifications and voting records before making key endorsements in the 2002 elections. Endorsements were made in the races for U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, Governor, and State Legislature.

MLGPA members endorsed John Baldacci for governor, Chellie Pingree for U.S. Senate, Tom Allen for U.S. Congress (1st District), and Mike Michaud for U.S. Congress (2nd District).

At the state level, members endorsed 14 candidates for Senate and 66 for House of Representatives.

D = Democrat R = Republican G = Green Party

United States Senate:

Chellie Pingree (D)

Chellie Pingree is unwavering in her support of protecting civil rights. In the Maine Senate, she fought to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation by taking on the issue on a variety of fronts, including employment, housing, public accommodation and credit. She vocally opposed a bill to ban same-sex marriage in 1997, when many legislators did not have the courage to speak out. We need Chellie in the U.S. Senate to be a strong voice for equal rights for all citizens.

"I am so honored to have had the opportunity to work with MGLPA for many years in the fight to protect gay, lesbian, bi and trans people from discrimination, and in the fight for equality for gay families," said Pingree. "I am proud to have your endorsement. We have to take on the same fight in Washington, D.C. to pass Hate Crimes legislation, the Employment Non Discrimination Act, and to demand more resources in our battle against HIV/AIDS. My door has always been open to you, and I look forward to finishing in the U.S. Senate what we started in the Maine Senate."

U.S. Representative to Congress:

District 1 Thomas Allen (D)

Incumbent Congressman Tom Allen received a 100 percent rating from the Human Rights Campaign and co-sponsored both the ENDA (employment non-discrimination) and LLEEA (hate crimes) bills. Tom was also Portland's mayor when the city's landmark, first-in-the-state human rights ordinance was passed. He often says that one of the most memorable moments of his tenure as Mayor was the evening Portland City Council passed the ordinance.

"Since my days at Bowdoin College, I have fought to guarantee civil rights for all Americans, regardless of race, creed, gender, nationality or sexual orientation," said Allen. "One of the most memorable moments of my tenure as Mayor was the evening

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Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Please Vote!

MLGPA

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, and
Transgender Communities
since 1984

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Robin Lambert
Vice-President

Thomas Little
Treasurer

Susan Sparaco
Secretary

Linda Conti
Mark Fitzgerald
Jane Gilbert
Marti Hagglund
Mark Holt
Jane Lincoln
PJ Mears
Dottie Melanson
Rodney Mondor
Thomas Moody
Chris Shuping
Barb Wood

Staff

Betsy Smith
Executive Director

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MLGPA Board Meetings

MLGPA Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month, from 6-8 pm, at the Lithgow Library in Augusta (corner of State and Winthrop). New members and visitors are always welcome. We actively seek new volunteers from all parts of Maine to help in our many programs—legislative, educational, community outreach, scholarships, and special events. For more information, contact the MLGPA office at the numbers above.

A Special Thanks from the President

The very fact that you are reading this thank-you note means that you are a valuable member of MLGPA—and I applaud you for that. It is people like you who have contributed to this year's success. I have been continually amazed at the scores of volunteers, members, and donors who have generously given their creativity, time, and money throughout this past year.

And what a year it has been! From when I was voted in as president in September of 2001 until now, I have witnessed countless examples of your profound commitment to our cause of equality for all Mainers. It would be impossible to thank you all for all that we have accomplished, but here are just a few highlights:

- Hired our first full-time Executive Director.
- Increased our membership five-fold to one thousand members.
- Developed an open board governance and communication framework.
- Raised the combined annual income of MLGPA and MLGPA Foundation from \$56,000 to \$101,000.
- Launched an interactive web site (to be on-line anyday now).
- Tripled our attendance at our Annual Awards dinner—we had a full house and actually had to give "stand-by" tickets!
- Had the first-ever MLGPA booth at the State Republican Convention.
- Renamed our scholarship program the I. Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship, in honor of Senator Joel Abromson, an unwavering supporter of LGBT civil rights legislation.
- Coordinated a wide range of outreach activities, including support for the campaigns to include sexual orientation in Bangor and Westbrook municipal ordinances.
- Were awarded a two-year \$60,000 grant to hire a Development Director.

Our work is far from over. Every week, we receive at least one heart-breaking call—"Can my landlord succeed in his threat to evict me because I had my fag friends over last Saturday night for a dinner party?" "Could I be fired if I disclose that I am gay, in order to report sexual harassment?" The terrible answer to these questions and many like them is, "Under present Maine law, yes, they can."

I am looking forward to this next year and the chance to continue to serve our community. I am certain that one day we will be able to say to such calls, "Of course, they can't."

Maggie Allen
MLGPA President

Former MLGPA President returns as Executive Director

By Robin Lambert, Vice-President

Betsy Smith, MLGPA president from 1996-1999, recently returned to Maine to become the organization's second full-time executive director. MLGPA's first executive director, Rick Galena, stepped down in July to work for Mike Michaud's campaign for Congress.

During Rick's tenure—under the leadership of presidents David Garrity and then Maggie Allen—MLGPA defeated several anti-gay legislative bills, nearly tripled the MLGPA membership, and secured several significant grants worth \$70,000. We wish Rick the best of luck in his new endeavors.

Betsy Smith spent the last three years in Boston as executive director of a 4000-member peace and justice organization that organizes and lobbies for progressive issues at both the state and federal levels. As executive director, she oversaw the organization's three major areas—political, administrative, and fundraising.

Continued on next page

Westbrook to Hold Referendum on Civil Rights Protections

By Brenda Broder, Campaign Manager, Westbrook Citizens for Civil Rights

It's deja vu all over again! Same players, just different location. This time the referendum to deny gay/lesbian civil rights protections is happening in Westbrook, Maine-home of the Christian Civic League's Paul Volle.

Westbrook citizens made their views known in November 2000 when they voted for civil rights protections regardless of sexual orientation. The YES on Question 6 referendum passed by a majority in every voting district in the city.

In spring 2002 the Westbrook City Council, at the urging of Rev. Susan Gilpin and other concerned citizens, passed a local ordinance including sexual orientation as a protected classification in the city charter.

Not surprising, Paul Volle gathered enough signatures to send the issue to the voters in November. He has taken offense that someone would dare raise this issue "in his own back yard." It appears that Mr. Volle doesn't understand that not only do we all share this community but that the majority of the town's voters believe that everyone should have equal protection under the law.

At a recent city council meeting to determine whether

to place the question on the ballot, the usual argument about "special rights" was made by an African American man. In one hand he held a copy of the Constitution, claiming that it already protects everyone in this country. I wish I could have pointed out that not long ago his ancestors were unable to own land or vote under the same document he claims already provides protection for all citizens in this country.

In his other hand was the bible. Funny how we can interpret scriptures so differently. It was painful to learn that in his opinion, we are not all loved and accepted by the same God that I have prayed to my entire life.

For the second time in my life (the first time was in South Portland at a voting station), I felt afraid for standing up against the "so called" majority. I felt vulnerable for speaking up for what I believe is right. I felt like a trouble maker and a bad girl. It would be so much easier to remain in the background and not voice my opinion. I am an uppity woman and I cannot let a small group of vocal people

Continued on back page

Former President returns as Executive Director

Continued from previous page

She was the primary fundraiser and focused heavily on major donor giving, direct mail, and special events. During her last year there she organized the organization's 40th Anniversary celebration, which raised an impressive \$57,000 and broke the record for attendance.

She claims, however, that her greatest adventure during the last three years was guiding the Board of Directors through long-range strategic planning. At the end of the 10-month process, the Board had developed a 3-5 year working plan that addressed membership growth, finances, fundraising, infrastructure, and the political program. The new changes are currently being implemented as she watches from afar.

Betsy moved to Boston in 1999 so that her partner, Jennifer Hoopes, could attend law school at Northeastern University. Although most of us would assume that attending law school was challenging enough, during those three years, Betsy and Jennifer had a commitment ceremony, bought their first house, and had a baby. Their son, Justin David Smith-Hoopes, was born last December and is currently a whirlwind-of-activity 9 month old. He keeps his moms on their toes.

Betsy, Jennifer, and Justin are living in Portland and according to them are "thrilled" to be back in Maine. For one thing, their daily commute just went from 3 hours to 14

minutes. And although Maine does not currently have second parent adoption laws, they feel Maine is a much better place to raise children.

We welcome Betsy's return to Maine and especially to MLGPA. •



Betsy Smith (left), MLGPA's new Executive Director, talks to Board member Susan Sparaco about Maine's Safe Schools program.

MLGPA Endorses 2002 Campaigns

Continued from page 1

Portland City Council passed Maine's first ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. I am also very proud to co-sponsor both ENDA and hate crimes legislation in Congress and will continue to fight for their passage."

District 2 Michael Michaud (D)

In the Maine Senate, Mike Michaud was chief sponsor of legislation that extends spousal hospital visitation rights to same-sex partners. He also co-sponsored and helped lead a bi-partisan effort to pass Maine's Domestic Partnership Benefits law. And with the Speaker of the House, he helped block an extreme anti-gay adoption bill from becoming law in Maine.

"I am extremely honored to have received an endorsement from such an important and influential grassroots citizen organization," said Michaud. "I am proud to have Maine's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community on record supporting my campaign for Congress."

Governor John Baldacci (D)

As a Maine Senator, John Baldacci co-sponsored the civil rights bill which passed as law. In Congress, John co-sponsored ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) and continues to be a strong voice and supporter of hate crimes legislation.

"I believe that all citizens should be treated equally, and should be judged based on their actions and abilities, not on their race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation," said Baldacci. "Discrimination is wrong. It must not be tolerated. Every American must be given the opportunity to live their life, raise their family, and do their job without being subjected to discriminatory comments or actions. I support the rights of gay and lesbian people to adopt. I want to extend the rights and benefits enjoyed by married couples, such as health insurance benefits and hospital visitation rights, to same-sex couples."

State Senate

Bold = Incumbent

District

6	D Charles D. Fisher, Brewer
7	D Mary R. Cathcart, Orono
11	D Joseph E. Brooks, Winterport
15	D Beverly C. Daggett, Augusta
16	D Christopher G.L. Hall, Bristol
17	D Gary T. McGrane, Jay
18	D Sharon A. Treat, Farmingdale
19	R Arthur F. Mayo III, Bath
23	D Betheda Edmonds, Freeport
24	D Bruce Bryant, Dixfield
27	D Michael Brennan, Portland
28	R Robin D. Lambert, Portland
29	D William B. O'Gara, Westbrook
30	D Lynn Bromley, South Portland

State Representative

District

5	D Thomas J. Wright, Berwick
12	D Frank J. Tarazewich, Waterboro
15	D Christopher P. O'Neil, Saco
16	D Thomas J. Kane, Saco
17	D Nancy B. Sullivan, Biddeford
18	D Marie Laverriere-Boucher, Biddeford
19	D Joanne T. Twomey, Biddeford
20	D David Lemoine, Old Orchard Beach
23	D Christopher R. Barstow, Gorham
24	D Lawrence Bliss, South Portland
25	D Janet L. McLaughlin, Cape Elizabeth
26	D Christopher T. Muse, South Portland
27	D Williams C. Collins, South Portland
28	D Ronald E. Usher, Westbrook
29	D Robert W. Duplessie, Westbrook
30	D Benjamin F. Dudley, Portland
31	Dual Endorsement:
	G John Eder, Portland
	D David Garrity, Portland
33	D Herbert Adams, Portland
34	D William S. Norbert, Portland
35	D Joseph C. Brannigan, Portland
36	D Boyd P. Marley, Portland
37	D Glenn A. Cummings, Portland
38	R Joseph Bruno, Raymond
46	D Margaret R. Reimer, Bridgton
48	D Thomas D. Bull, Freeport
49	D John G. Richardson, Brunswick
50	D Stanley J. Gerzofsky, Brunswick
53	D Deborah J. Hutton, Bowdoinham
54	D Thomas R. Watson, Bath
55	D Carol A. Grose, Woolwich
57	D Peter L. Rines, Wiscasset
58	D Morrison Bonpasse, Newcastle
63	D Susan Dorr, Camden
69	D Rosita Gagne, Buckfield
70	D John L. Patrick, Rumford
73	D Deborah L. Simpson, Auburn
79	D Linda R. McKee, Wayne
80	D Elaine Fuller, Manchester
82	G Ruth Z. Gabey, West Gardiner
86	D Richard H. Mailhot, Lewiston
87	D William R. Walcott, Lewiston
89	D Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien, Lewiston
91	D Patrick Colwell, Gardiner
92	D Scott W. Cowger, Hallowell
94	D Charles E. Mitchell, Vassalboro
96	R Julie Ann O'Brien, Augusta
98	D Paul R. Hatch, Skowhegan
99	D Marilyn E. Canavan, Waterville
100	D Lisa T. Marrache, Waterville
102	D Zachary E. Matthews, Winslow
104	D Bernard E. McGowan, Pittsfield

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The 6th Annual Great Pumpkin Ball to benefit the MLGPA Foundation

By Rodney Mondor, Board Member

As a kid, I remember watching Linus sleeping in the pumpkin patch waiting for the arrival of The Great Pumpkin. He believed that each year, The Great Pumpkin searched the world looking for the 'perfect' pumpkin patch to visit. So, Linus worked hard all year to create the 'perfect' pumpkin patch and await the glorious arrival of the Great Pumpkin as a reward for his hard work. Well, now it is our time to wait for the glorious arrival of the Great Pumpkin—and it is coming soon.

October 26th will mark the 6th Annual MLGPA/MLGPA Foundation Great Pumpkin Ball. It is the only major fundraiser for the MLGPA Foundation and a huge event for the Portland community and the State of Maine. The money raised from this event will help further our Safe Schools programs, Scholarship programs, Community Educational Outreach and many other community projects. These are programs which benefit the entire State of Maine and our GLBT community. This is the hard work. But on October 26th is our reward.

The GLBT community has worked so hard over the years to educate and advocate on GLBT issues. We have met with our State Legislatures and local government officials. We have worked on State and City ordinances to stop discrimination. We continue to raise awareness on GLBT issues so that the youth in our state can be safer. The months to come will provide the MLGPA with many more challenges. Our communities still need education and support on anti-discrimination issues. Our schools need more resources and education on GLBT issues. It doesn't stop. So, we cannot stop raising awareness and raising money for the cause.

The 6th Annual Great Pumpkin Ball is our chance to celebrate. Even if you don't like to dress up, come as you are and see the parade of costumes as people compete for the \$500 top

prize. Someone is going to walk away with \$500 and the title of "Best of Show." What a night to remember. This year's panel of judges includes Mayor Karen Geraghty, Representative Bill Norbert, Representative Joe Bruno, Sheriff Mark Dion, Portland Press Herald's Bill Nemitz, and Lori Voornas (Q97.9) as the Host. We are in for a great night of fun.

A new addition to our format is our DJ Steve Mondor from DJz2GO. He has been in the business for 10 years and does he know how to motivate a crowd. If you have a request, he has the music and he is quite the dancer. I should know—he is my brother. Get ready to be entertained!

This event would not be possible without the hard work from a great committee. I am nothing without this group. Special thanks go out to Jeanie Bourke, Penny Dublin, Ray Dumont, Mark Fitzgerald, JP Gagnon, Bob Grant, Mark Holt, and Chris Shuping.

They have been working hard planning and preparing for the arrival of The Great Pumpkin.

Volunteers are needed for decorating and working at the event. All we ask is one hour of your time and you can play a key role in the success of the Ball. All you have to do is give Rodney a call and he will sign you right up and tell you all about the many exciting opportunities available as a volunteer. Do wait—get your first choice now.

So, mark your calendars and pull out your box of costumes and join us on October 26th at 8pm in the Eastland for the 6th Annual Great Pumpkin Ball. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. You can buy your tickets at Drop Me a Line on Congress Street, Portland or Bread & Roses in Ogunquit. You are sure to have a great time. I guarantee it!

For more information or to volunteer, call Rodney Mondor at 772-5083. •

**6th Annual Great
Pumpkin Ball
Saturday, October 26
8:00 pm
Eastland Park Hotel
157 High Street
Portland**



Pumpkin Ball Memories



MLGPA Receives Grant for Development & Fundraising

MLGPA recently received a \$60,000 two-year grant from the Gill Foundation, a \$260 million-endowed organization committed to securing equal opportunities for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The grant will allow MLGPA to hire its first-ever Development Director.

The grant is part of the Gill Foundation's 21st Century Initiatives Project. The project is a special initiative created in 1999 to augment the foundation's programs in three important sectors of the LGBT community—community centers in nonurban United States, statewide advocacy organizations, and organizations serving urban people of color. Each individual program will run for a finite period of two to five years and currently is being developed with input from a representative group of ten to fifteen people from each community served by the initiative. The project includes a grantmaking and technical assistance component, to include fundraising, donor and organizational development training.

"We are very pleased to receive this grant from the Gill Foundation. The grant comes at an important time for this organization as begin to build our resources to once again work to secure civil rights protections for all Maine citizens," said MLGPA president Maggie Allen. "We see this grant as an indication that we are on the right track in our commitment to providing excellent advocacy in the legislature for LGBT Mainers."

About the Gill Foundation

The mission of the Colorado-based Gill Foundation is to secure equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Established in 1994 by software entrepreneur Tim Gill, the Gill Foundation is the nation's largest funder of LGBT organizations. With an endowment of \$260 million, the Gill Foundation has invested nearly \$40 million in nonprofit organizations throughout the country. For more information, call 303-292-4455 or visit www.gillfoundation.org. •

**Congratulations to MLGPA raffle winners
Celeste Gosselin and Jewel McHale,
who won a 6-day cruise for two on the
Schooner J & E Riggon in Penobscot Bay.**

**Great Pumpkin Ball
October 26, 8:00 pm
Eastland Park Hotel, Portland
DON'T MISS IT!!**

MLGPA Board of Directors Stay the Course

By Betsy Smith, Executive Director

MLGPA members voted at the annual meeting in September to re-elect the same hard working individuals to the Board of Directors. Under the leadership of Maggie Allen, who just completed her first year as president of the Board, MLGPA made great strides in the State House and in community building, fundraising, and membership growth. Maggie claims her formula for success is to surround herself by quality people and then get the hell out of their way.

As a result, nearly every Board member volunteered to return for another year of hard work.

Thank you to every MLGPA Board member, for your commitment to serve another term assures that we will make progress on issues important to the LGBT community.



Front Row

Tom Little, Treasurer (far left). Tom just recently rejoined the MLGPA Board as treasurer. He served on the Board as treasurer in 1997-98, but left to earn a computer degree from Bentley College in Massachusetts. Tom lives in Westbrook and is currently working for Verizon in Portland. We are thrilled to have him back as treasurer.

Robin Lambert, Vice-President (second from left). Robin was a member of the original MLGPA Board of Directors (1984 - 1990) and has been on the current board for two years. Since the founding of MLGPA, he has been active in Maine politics and business as an openly gay man. He has a daughter, Jodi, and an openly gay son, Lee. Robin is a Republican currently running for State Senate in District 28 in Portland.

Susan Sparaco, Secretary (second from right). Susan has been on the MLGPA Board for six years and chairs the Joel Abromson Scholarship program. She has worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the past 12 years and is part of the team providing civil rights training to Maine schools. She lives in Bath with her partner of 22 years.

Maggie Allen, President (far right). Maggie lives in Bath with her partner of 22 years and has been on the MLGPA Board for five years. By day, she is an elementary school teacher at the Skillins School in South Portland and by night and weekend, she is MLGPA president. This begins her second year as president.

Back Row

Mark Holt (far left). Mark grew up in western Maine and has lived in Portland for 15 years. He is self-employed and has owned a retail shop for nearly 12 years. He enjoys volunteer work and has assisted many organizations and programs through his business and personal associations. He was introduced to many GLBT organizations as a committee member of Southern Maine Pride. This is Mark's first year on the MLGPA Board.

Mark Fitzgerald (second from left). Mark moved to Maine from Chicago, where he served on the boards of Chicago House, a residence for people with AIDS, and Dignity-Chicago. He was also involved in Equality-Illinois, a statewide political group that spearheaded many successful LGBT positive initiatives. Mark manages the internal communications programs at Banknorth Group, the parent company of People's Heritage Bank.

Barb Wood (third from left). Barb is a founding member of MLGPA and a "great pioneer." Serving on the Portland City Council from 1988 to 1991, she was the first openly gay or lesbian elected official in Maine. MLGPA created the "Great Pioneer Award" in her honor. She was also a key spokesperson and organizer for Portland's successful anti-discrimination referendum in 1992. Barb is back for her second year on the current Board and enjoys celebrating life after surviving ovarian cancer.

Rodney Mondor (fourth from left). After earning a Master's degree from the Univ. of South Carolina, Rodney returned to Maine in 1994. He worked for the United Way of Greater Portland and for The AIDS Project as the client services coordinator. Currently, he is the Assistant Director for Student Involvement at the Univ. of Southern Maine. He is a volunteer at Maine Medical, coordinator of Portland Thanksgiving, and a bike rider for the Montreal US AIDS Vaccine Ride. Rodney lives in Portland with his partner Ray.

Thomas Moody (fifth from left). Thomas is a graduate of Westbrook College and the Hartt School of Music at the Univ. of Hartford in Connecticut. He currently works as a medical technologist at Miles Memorial Hospital in Damariscotta. Thomas has been active in several local State House and Senate races, the Lincoln County Democrats, and is the Democratic Party's Town Chair of Nobleboro.

Linda Conti (fifth from right). Linda hails from Eastport, Maine. She graduated from Wellesley College in 1982 and the Univ. of Maine School of Law in 1987, along with esteemed classmate Susan Sparaco. She has worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the past 14 years. A member of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta, she currently serves on the religious education committee and teaches religious education to 4th and 5th graders.

Marti Hagglund (fourth from right). Marti is MLGPA's transgender advocate consultant. She is the founder of transcare2000, which provides transsexual nursing and rehabilitation, educational seminars, private counseling, group facilitation, and a new web community for transgendered and intersexed persons. Her goal in being on

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State House Update on Civil Rights:

How Maine Law Now Helps You In Health Areas

By Senator Susan Longley, Democrat from Waldo County

During the past eight years that I have served in the Maine Senate, I have had the pleasure of working with a great team of civil rights leaders, both in the legislature and those representing all of us in MLGPA. With thanks to all our leaders, we've had some tremendous successes, especially in the area of health care. Following are some of our more important health care successes.

Health Care Coverage in the Private Sector

No matter where you live and work in Maine in the private sector, if you have a domestic partner and would like to help them get health care coverage through your employer, you can inform your employer that his/her health insurance company is required to offer your company coverage for domestic partners. It's now the law. (Maine law defines 'domestic partners' to be persons who have been legally domiciled with one another for at least 12 months, who are not legally married to or legally separated from another individual, who are mentally competent and who are each other's sole domestic partner and intend to remain so).

Health Care Coverage in the Public Sector

Similarly, if you are a Maine state employee, your coverage gives you the option also to cover your domestic partner. If you have any questions, call the Office of Employee Health and Benefits at 800-422-4503 or 287-6780.

Hospital Visitation

Concerning health care situations, if very serious health concerns land you in the hospital intensive care or critical unit with a "Family Only" sign on your door, the hospital is required to inform you that you can designate family members. In other words, you can tell the hospital that your partner is your family.

Health Care Directives

Concerning even more serious health care situations where your partner is in a persistent vegetative state and/or lacks capacity and there is no written directive such as a will or living will, you now have a far better chance to serve as your partner's 'surrogate' and help make health care decisions for your incapacitated loved one. I'll take credit for changing this law, and it all resulted from my work as Chair of the Judiciary. In 1999 Maine had a Health Care Decision law that gave spouses, parents, children, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews the rights to make major health care decisions for our very sick loved ones BEFORE a gay partner had any say whatsoever! Now a partner, defined as "an adult who shares and emotional, physical and emotional relationship with a patient similar to that of a spouse," is listed right next to spouse. In short, a partner can speak for the one s/he loves at times when the loved one cannot.

HIV-AIDS

If you have AIDS or HIV-positive, Maine now can help you access more affordable prescription drugs.

Above, I have tried to give you the layperson's explanation of our civil rights successes in health care areas in the Legislature over my past 4 terms in the Maine Senate.

In short, we have seen some very significant successes in health care areas. Along with key legislators, MLGPA has been on the front lines with most of these. Although we suffered a few huge defeats, it is important to remember that we have mostly moved forward. Above are a solid handful of examples of advances in the health care area. And as we know, there's more to come, especially if we continue to think positive and work together. •



Senator Susan Longley

Sen. Susan W. Longley (D-Waldo) is the first-ever Democrat to represent the conservative Republican district of Waldo County. Sen. Longley now serves as Chair of the Legislature's Health & Human Service Committee where she has been a powerful and effective ally of the gay community. From 1996-2000, she also served as Chair of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee. Few who were present will forget her authoritative and graceful control of rancorous hearings on civil rights, same-sex marriage, and partial-birth abortions. Forced to step down from the State Senate by term limits, Longley was only narrowly beaten in her recent run for the Democratic nomination for the 2nd Congressional District. We are grateful to Longley for her leadership and many years of hard work. We look forward to working with her in the future.

—Sive Neilan, long-time MLGPA member

MLGPA Endorses 2002 Campaigns

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109 R Donald P. Berry, Sr., Belmont
 116 D Stanley N. Marshall, Jr., Veazie
 117 D Sean Faircloth, Bangor
 118 D Joseph C. Perry, Bangor
 119 D Patricia A. Blanchette, Bangor
 120 D Jacqueline R. Norton, Bangor
 121 D Matthew Dunlap, Old Town

123 D Jonathan Thomas, Orono
 128 D James M. Schatz, Blue Hill
 130 R Robert E. Stanwood, Southwest Harbor
 141 D Sally Landry, Patten
 149 D William J. Smith, Van Buren
 150 D Rosaire Paradis, Jr., Frenchville
 151 D Marc E. Michaud, Fort Kent



Four MLGPA-endorsed candidates attended this year's annual meeting on September 14 in Augusta. From left to right are: Robin Lambert, Republican candidate from Portland running for the Maine Senate, Senator Beverly Daggett, incumbent Democrat from Augusta, William Walcott, Democrat candidate from Lewiston running for the Maine House, and Ruth Gabey, Green Party candidate running for the Maine House.



Chris Shuping (far right). Chris is from North Carolina and chose to live in Portland after a brief stay in Bar Harbor. He, along with his partner of 14 years, own a retail shop in Portland. This is Chris' first time as a board member, having mostly volunteered and supported a number of local organizations through the years. Chris enjoys communicating with folks and is always in hopes of introducing new people to each other.

Absent from photo:

PJ Mears. PJ is the Director of Transgender Advocacy, which provides education, advocacy, and support for the Transgender/Transsexual and Intersexed communities in Maine. He is an adult advisor for Lewiston-Auburn Outright and serves on the Board of Trustees for the First Universalist Church (UU) of Auburn. PJ works as a professional forester with a large company in Maine.

Dottie Melanson. Dottie works at Maine Medical Center as a registered nurse. She is chair of the Cumberland County Democratic Committee and is Maine's Democratic National Woman. She has actively assisted many candidates with local, state, and national campaigns. She serves on the Board of Maine Citizens Against Handguns and the Death with Dignity Center. Dottie lives with her husband of 20 years and three glorious teenage daughters. •

MLGPA Board Re-Elected

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the Board is to use to current political climate to educate and change current laws to protect all transgendered and intersexed persons from discrimination.

Jane Gilbert (third from right). Jane is the Director of the Office of Human Resources for the Maine Department of Transportation. Her current position is the capstone of 32 years of Maine State Government service. In her civic involvement, Jane has been an active advocate for economic equity for all people and has served on the boards of the Family Violence Project, Children's Center, MaineShare, and Maine Women's Lobby.

Jane Lincoln (second from right). Jane is a lifelong Mainer. Born and raised in Kittery Point, she now lives in Hallowell. She recently completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard University. She has worked in state government for 23 years and is currently Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. Jane most recently served on the Board of the Maine Women's Lobby.



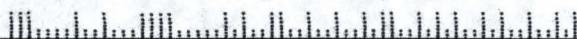
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Join our Action Alert
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Contact us at
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04102+3428 33



Westbrook to Hold Civil Rights Referendum

Continued from page 3

silence my voice. I do believe that we are the majority. We are the reasonable people who know that discrimination in any form is wrong.

Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights was formed to secure civil rights for all people who live, work, and do business in Westbrook. We are currently working to defeat the referendum that would repeal the Westbrook Civil Rights Ordinance. The ordinance would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, access to public accommodations, education, and the extension of financial credit.

We need your help! Please help us make Westbrook the next community with civil rights protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Mostly we need your time—for dropping campaign literature in our neighborhoods, calling to identify supporters, mailings, and other volunteer activities.

But we also need financial support. If you cannot

come to Westbrook to volunteer, please support our efforts with a contribution. A \$100 contribution would pay for part of the postage of a campaign mailing. A \$50 contribution would pay for 25 lawn signs to put in our neighborhoods. A \$25 contribution would pay for 100 door hangers, a critical component to the campaign.

For more information, to send contributions, and to volunteer, please contact us at:

Westbrook Citizens for Equal Rights
PO Box 1105
Westbrook, ME 04098
797-5774

Referendum Question:

Shall the Ordinance entitled 'Westbrook Human Rights Ordinance Article 1 Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation' be repealed...Council order #2002-101

VOTE NO...Westbrook Won't Discriminate!!!

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Please Vote!